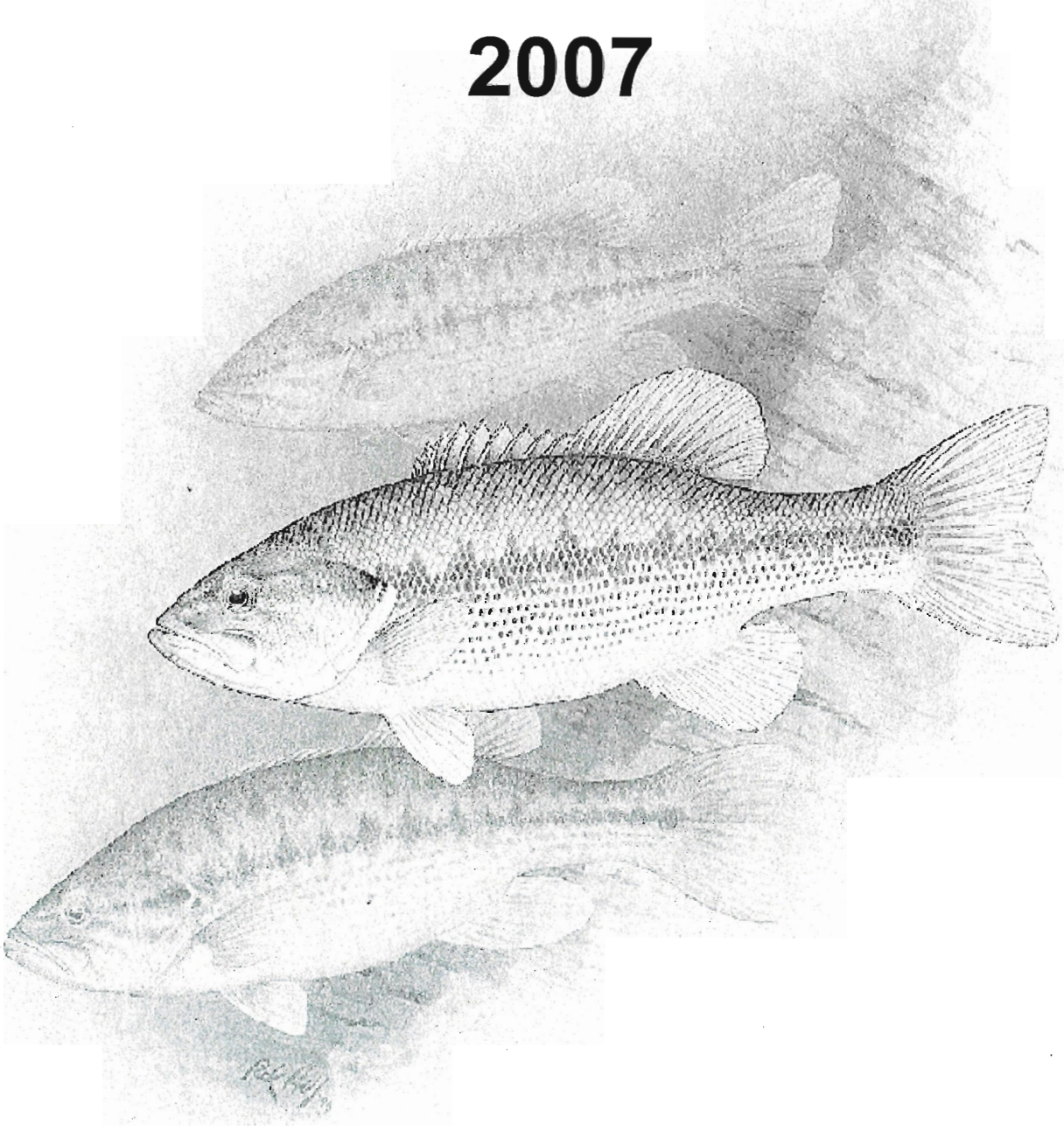
Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT™

Bass Tournament Results
2007



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participation in the Tournament Reporting Program totaled 284 black bass fishing tournaments in 2007. This was an increase over the 258 reported tournaments in 2006 and was actually the highest total since the program in 1999. For other years, the total number of reported black bass fishing tournaments ranged from anywhere between 110 in 1999 to 278 in 2002. Catch data statistics were obtained from 52% of all registered tournaments in 2007. This was also an increase from the 43% observed in 2006. Black bass tournament information was obtained from 14 different large reservoirs (> 1000 acres), 8 small lakes (< 1000 acres), the Ohio River, and the Kentucky River.

The vast majority of black bass tournaments in 2007 reported using both creel limits and size limits during their tournaments. Most tournaments followed the regulations set for the specific water body that was fished, although some enforced more stringent regulations. Creel limits of 5 or 6-fish were used by 98.5% of all black bass tournaments; however, 1.2% reported using a creel limit of only 1-fish. 12-inch and 15-inch minimum size limits were the most commonly used. The percentage of bass anglers who reported catching a limit during a tournament decreased from 16.5% in 2006 to 11.9% in 2007. This was the first decrease after 6 straight years (2001 – 2006) of gradual increases, but it is still the 2nd highest percentage of anglers catching their limits in the past 7 years. The average length of a bass fishing tournament was 9.1 hours in 2007. This is down slightly from those reported in 2006 (9.3 hours). Tournament length ranged from 4.0 to 24.0 hours in 2007. Obviously, a 24.0 hour tournament is comprised of a 3-day tournament, and these were predominantly hosted by larger fishing organizations such as BASS and FLW.

By season, both spring and summer hosted the majority of the 2007 bass fishing tournaments with 47.7% and 28.6%, respectively. Bass tournaments held during the fall and winter comprised 18.4% and 4.1% of the total number of tournaments, respectively. Daytime tournaments comprised 90.2% of all bass fishing tournaments, while night tournaments comprised 9.8%. Approximately 88.5% of all night tournaments were held during the summer months.

In 2007, a total of 13,317 bass anglers caught 18,835 bass in registered bass tournaments in Kentucky (these numbers are based only upon those tournaments that supplied the KDFWR with catch information). The average tournament had a total of 48 anglers. The average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament) was 13.80 pounds. This is an increase of from that in 2006 (11.01 pounds), 2005 (8.12 pounds), 2004 (9.9 pounds) and 2003 (9.6 pounds). The largest 1st place weight (for a 1-day, 8.0 hour tournament) was 25.80 pounds and was registered at Kentucky Lake on July 28, 2007. The biggest bass (8.06 pounds) caught in 2007 was from Green River Lake on July 7, 2007.

Tournament angler success (80.8%) and catch rates (0.21 bass per hour) were highest at Elmer Davis Lake. However, this high success and catch rate was comprised of mostly smaller bass (average weight of only 0.77 pounds per bass). Lake Cumberland (79.8%) and Bullock Pen (70.0%) also ranked high for angler success rate. Lake Barkley ranked highest for average weight per bass at 2.62 pounds, and averaged a catch rate of 0.19 bass per hour, which is a very good combination. Lake Beshear had consistently ranked the top spot for the last couple of years, but there were no tournaments reported from that lake in 2007. Lake Cumberland (39 hours) and Barren River Lake (53 hours) took the least amount of time to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds. Kincaid Lake (248 hours) and Lake Barkley (518 hours) took the least amount of time to catch a bass $\geq$ 6.0 pounds. Kentucky Lake produced 38 bass greater than 6 pounds in 2007, while Lake Barkley produced 36 bass greater than 6 pounds. Lake Cumberland ranked highest for the average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament) at 16.48 pounds. Rounding out the top 5 were Lake Barkley (15.88 pounds), Barren River Lake (15.53 pounds), Kentucky Lake (14.87 pounds), and Green River Lake (12.54 pounds).

Anglers, in 2008, should begin to notice increased catch rates at Carr Creek Lake, Taylorsville Lake and Laurel River Lake, as they have been stocked with largemouth bass each of the last three years. Lake Cumberland surprised us with some excellent bass fishing in 2007, and there is hope that is will carry over to 2008. Of course, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Barren River Lake should be expected to be just as good as ever, as these lakes consistently produce outstanding catches, as well as numbers of big bass. For those anglers looking to catch a trophy, we suggest Lake Beshear, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Kincaid Lake. Good luck fishing in 2008, we hope to see you out on the water!

INTRODUCTION

In 1999, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources began to collect data from black bass tournament anglers fishing Kentucky's waters. The objective of this project was to obtain statewide data on fishing pressure, catch, and success rates of black bass tournament anglers. Data will be used to build a long-term database to monitor trends in black bass fisheries by lake and on a statewide basis. These data, in combination with survey data collected during routine sampling, will increase the ability of resource managers to explain and forecast changes in black bass population abundance throughout the state. In addition, the summarized data will also be useful to bass anglers when planning future fishing trips and help them understand that normal fluctuations (small increases or decreases) occur in bass populations.

Addresses of known organized bass fishing clubs in Kentucky were obtained and sent packets concerning the project. Included was the Tournament Report Card, instructions, and recommended handling procedures for catch-and-release bass tournaments. Tournament directors were asked to complete and mail Tournament Report Cards to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Tournament data was also collected utilizing the Department's web page for voluntary tournament scheduling. This web page is http://fw.ky.gov/tournamentschedule.aspx. This new service allows bass clubs and tournament directors across the state to schedule and report the results of tournaments held throughout the year.

We asked that the Tournament Report Cards be mailed or results be reported online by 31 January 2008 to allow for data entry and analyses prior to the beginning of the 2008 fishing season. This completed report, compiling all data reported in 2007, will be sent to all clubs reporting tournament results. Organizations that have not provided results will be able to access the report online as we need to let everyone know why we need collect as much data as possible.

This report summarizes the 2007 bass tournament data by water body and season when available. Months included in each season are: spring = March – May; summer = June – August; fall = September – November; winter = December – February. Because the length of many bass fishing tournaments differs (i.e. one-day vs. two-day tournaments, 6-hour vs. 8-hour tournaments), the average 1st place weights have been adjusted to a standard length tournament fishing day of 8.0 hours (1-day tournament; simply multiply this value by 2 to get a 2-day tournament weight). By doing this, we can now compare all tournaments to each other because they are now based on the same length of fishing time (8.0 hours). For example, if the 1st place weight for a 10-hour tournament was 20 pounds, then 20 pounds divided by 10 hours would equal 2 pounds per hour. Based on the standard length fishing day of 8.0 hours, used in this report, the 1st place weight for this tournament would be 2 pounds times 8.0 hours or 16 pounds (1st place weight). Angler catch rates are reported as the number of tournament legal fish caught per hour of fishing. For example, at Lake Barkley, the catch rate for the entire year was 0.19 bass/hour of fishing. This translates into 100 divided by 19, which equals 5.3 hours of fishing to catch one keeper sized bass. It is important to remember that the data presented may be confounded by the use of different size and creel limits from one tournament or water body to the next. In general, length limits used in the reported tournaments followed minimum limits currently in place at each water body. **All tournaments must adhere to the minimum size and creel limits posted at each lake. However, tournaments may enact stricter regulations if they choose**. For example, at Kentucky Lake, the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 15-inch. At minimum, the lowest size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass must be 15-inches, however, tournaments could enforce a 16-inch or greater minimum size limit if they choose.

As was started in 2005, this report will show the amount of time it takes to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds and $\geq$ 6.0 pounds. Earlier reports displayed this information as the number of bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds that were caught per hour. This number is usually extremely low (i.e. catch rate of bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds was 0.007 bass/hour). This means that every hour, 0.007 bass of this size were caught during tournament angling. We are now reporting the number of hours of fishing it takes to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds. For example, at Lake Cumberland in 2007, it took approximately 39 hours of fishing to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds, while it took over 1000 hours to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds at Cave Run Lake. While these numbers may sound high, consider that a 50 angler tournament fishing for 8.0 hours equals 400 fishing hours of effort (50 x 8 = 400). And if takes 39 hours of fishing at Lake Cumberland to catch a $\geq$ 4.0 pound black bass, we would expect to

see at least 10 fish greater than 4 pounds be weighed in at that tournament. This is simply a prediction based on an average taken from all Lake Cumberland tournaments in 2007, and it is not a guarantee; some will weigh in more and others will weigh in less.

This database and report are intended to be helpful to tournament directors, tournament anglers, non-tournament anglers, and resource managers. We are planning to take another hard look at the database this summer and determine if other variables need to be looked at (i.e. individual vs. team tournaments). Any suggested improvements will be incorporated into future reports. If you would like to obtain information on how to get your club involved in the Tournament Report Project or have questions or comments on this year's report, please contact Chris Hickey at the following address:

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Your participation in this project is greatly appreciated. We also extend a very warm welcome to all clubs not already participating in the Tournament Report Project. With increased participation, it will result in a more complete and reliable understanding of bass populations and fishing opportunities in Kentucky's lakes and rivers. We hope that the information provided in this report will benefit you and your organization.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources also strongly recommends that all tournament directors utilize the tournament website for scheduling of their tournaments. This website was created to help reduce user conflict that may develop as a result of multiple tournaments scheduling a tournament on the same day at the same ramp at the same time. During the registration process, tournament directors will be able to verify if a tournament has already registered for an event on that day from that ramp on a water body. Since 1999, the Department has received numerous calls concerning conflicts about multiple tournaments occurring at the same ramp. **We kindly ask that in those situations where a tournament is already scheduled, the additional tournaments either seek a different ramp, or choose a different date for their tournament.** As interest in the sport of fishing and recreational boating increases, we ask for everybody's participation to help reduce potential user conflict. On behalf of the Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, I would like to wish everybody a great fishing season in 2008`, and hope to see you out on the water!

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Participation in the Tournament Report Program totaled 284 black bass fishing tournaments in 2007. This is higher than the tournaments reported in the past 5 years, including 2006 when 258 tournaments reported their catch data. Catch data statistics were obtained from 52.0% of all tournaments that were registered online in 2007. Again, this is an increase over 2006 (43%), but was very similar to 2005 when there was a 51.8% reporting rate. The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) would like to remind tournament directors that incomplete tournament data cannot be used in this report. KDFWR therefore asks that anglers contact us with any questions that you might have when entering tournament catch data. With increased participation, correct report entry, and an understanding of the importance of this program, a more complete and reliable picture of the black bass fisheries throughout the state will be obtained.

In 2007, a total of 284 black bass fishing tournaments were reported from only 24 different water bodies in Kentucky. At least one bass fishing tournament report was obtained from each of 14 different lakes $\geq$ 1,000 acres (large reservoirs) (Table 1). This was the lowest reporting rate for large reservoirs in 4 years, including 2004 (17 lakes), 2005 (16 lakes), and 2006 (16 lakes). Bass fishing tournament reports were also obtained from 8 small lakes (< 1000 acres) (Table 2). This continued the decreasing trend in reporting for smaller lakes where catch data was only reported for 9 smaller lakes in 2006, which is a large decrease from 2005 and 2004 (14 lakes). Bass tournament catch data was also obtained from the Ohio River (Cannelton, Markland, McAlpine, and Meldahl pools) and the Kentucky River (Table 3).

Most black bass fishing tournaments used a daily creel limit of either 5 or 6 fish in 2007. Approximately 65.0% of all bass tournaments utilized a 5-fish daily creel, while 32.2% used a 6-fish daily creel limit. In 2006, again 65.0% of all tournaments used a 5-fish daily creel and 28.6% used a 6-fish daily creel limit. In 2007, 1.0% of all bass tournaments reported utilizing a 1-fish daily creel limit which is slightly down from 2.0% in 2006, but is a large decrease from 6.1% in 2005. The 1-fish creel limits were used by simple "Big Fish" tournaments. There were also a few fishing tournaments that reported using a 3 or 4 fish daily creel limit.

In 2007, 11.9% of all tournament bass anglers reported catching their creel limit during the course of a tournament. This number is similar to the 11.3% that reported catching their limits in 2005, but it is a fairly large decrease from the 16.5% who caught their limits in 2006. This has halted the previous trend which had the number of anglers catching their limits basically increasing each year since 2001, when only 2.8% of bass anglers reported a limit. Similar to previous years, size limits were used in all tournaments and predominantly followed the regulations posted at each lake. Most size limits were comprised of either 12-inch or 15-inch minimum limits. Anglers should be aware that tournament size limits must follow the regulations posted for each lake they are fishing. Tournament size limits may be more strict (i.e. a tournament may chose to have a 18-inch size limit on a lake where the minimum size limit is only 15-inch), however, tournaments may not utilize lesser size limits (i.e. a tournament may not chose to have a 12-inch size limit on a lake where the minimum size limit is 15-inch).

Tournament length varied from 4.0 to 24.0 hours with an average time of 9.1 hours (h) in 2007. Similar to 2006 (9.3 h), this is slightly higher than the hours fished per tournament in 2005 (8.7 h), 2004 (8.8 h), and 2003 (8.8 h). Of the 284 bass tournaments that were reported in 2007, 76.0% were 1-day fishing events, 23.6% were 2-day fishing events, and 0.4% were 3 days. The only 3-day fishing event was FLW's regional tournament held at Kentucky Lake in October. By season, both spring and summer hosted the majority of the 2007 bass fishing tournaments with 47.7% and 28.6%, respectively. Bass fishing tournaments held in the fall comprised 18.4% of the total number of tournaments, only 4.1% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the winter months. Approximately 90.2% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the day, while 9.8% were held at night. Approximately 88.5% of all night tournaments were held during the summer months.

In the 284 bass fishing tournaments held in 2007, a total of 13,317 anglers caught 18,835 bass that weighed 41,447 pounds. The number of anglers in 2007 tournaments was higher than that in both 2006 (11,270) and 2005 (12,314). Catch of bass decreased by only 1.5% in 2007, compared to 2006 (19,019 bass were caught). The catch rate of black bass in 2007 was 1.45 bass per angler, which is a drop from 2006 (1.69 bass/angler). But after 2006, it was still the second highest catch rate observed since this program began,

which had ranged from 0.76 bass per angler in 2002 to 1.31 bass per angler in 2004. The average tournament in 2006 had a total of 48 anglers. This is a slight increase from the last 2 years, which both averaged 45 anglers per tournament. The average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament) was 12.58 pounds in 2006 up from 11.01 pounds in 2006. It was also a significantly higher 1st place weight than earlier years like 2005 (8.12 lbs), 2004 (9.9 lbs), and 2003 (9.6 lbs). The largest 1st place weight (for a 1-day, 8.0 hour tournament) in 2007 was 25.8 pounds and was registered at Kentucky Lake on July 28, 2007.

The black bass species predominantly caught during fishing tournaments were largemouth bass. Largemouth bass comprised 86.8% of the total tournament angler catch, with smallmouth and spotted bass accounting for 6.2 and 7.0% of the remaining catch, respectively (Table 4). Catch of largemouth bass increased in 2007, compared to 2006 (82.4% of the total black bass catch was largemouth bass). Catch of smallmouth bass in tournament angler's catch was greatest at the Markland Pool of the Ohio River (31.0% of the total black bass catch), and Lake Cumberland (32.0%). Catch of spotted bass in the tournament angler's catch was greatest at Lake Cumberland (36.0%), Dale Hollow Lake (32.0%), and Cave Run Lake (15.0%).

Six quality indicators were used to rank all water bodies with three or more tournaments reported in 2006 (Table 5). The use of different size limits on the various water bodies will affect several of these indicators and should be considered.

The 2007 results showed that tournament anglers were most successful (success = number of anglers weighing fish divided by the number of anglers in the tournament) at Elmer Davis Lake (Table 5). At Elmer Davis, 80.8% of all tournament anglers weighed in legal size fish in 2007. Additional lakes that ranked high in angler success included Lake Cumberland (79.8%), Bullock Pen Lake (70.0%), Cave Run Lake (65.5%), and Lake Barkley (65.2%). Again, anglers should remember that minimum size limits differ between lakes throughout Kentucky and this difference can and does influence the number of fish that are weighed in during a bass fishing tournament. In 2006, angler success was highest at Herrington Lake (75.8%), while in 2005, angler success was highest at Paintsville Lake (75.0%). To date, the lake that had the highest angler success during a tournament season was Elmer Davis Lake in 2003 (84.8%).

Lake Barkley and Lake Cumberland both ranked highest in terms of the average weight per bass (2.62 pounds) weighed in during a bass tournament in 2007 (Table 5). The rest of the top five included Kentucky Lake (2.60 pounds), Dewey Lake (2.59 pounds), and Taylorsville Lake (2.36 pounds). It is interesting to note that all 5 of these lakes have a 15-inch minimum size limit, which is significantly higher than the statewide 12-inch minimum size limit. This has a positive influence on average weight per bass as anglers are required to weigh in bigger fish because of the more stringent size limit. In 2006, Lake Beshear ranked highest in terms of average weight per bass (2.59 pounds), while in 2005, Lake Malone produced the highest average weight per bass (3.31 pounds). Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake have consistently been in the top 5 for highest average weight per bass since the reporting program began in 1999.

Catch rates (in terms of the number of bass caught per hour by bass tournament anglers) were highest at Elmer Davis Lake (0.21 bass per hour of fishing) (Table 5). Other top lakes included Lake Cumberland (0.20 bass per hour), Barren River Lake (0.20 bass per hour), Cave Run Lake (0.20 bass per hour), and Lake Barkley (0.19 bass per hour). In 2006, Herrington Lake had the highest catch rate for bass (0.21 bass per hour). And before that in 2005 and 2004, Paintsville Lake had the highest catch rate for bass (0.28 and 0.25 bass per hour, respectively). Anglers should note that the high catch rates of bass at Elmer Davis Lake are comprised of smaller bass which is evident by their low average weight per bass (0.77 pounds per bass).

Lake Cumberland averaged the least amount of time (39 angler hours) to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds (Table 5). Barren River Lake and Lake Barkley both ranked second and averaged 53 hours to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds in 2007. Other top lakes include Kentucky Lake (81 hours) and Guist Creek Lake (119 hours). In 2006, Lake Beshear was ranked first in this category. Since 2002, Lake Beshear and Lake Malone had consistently been rank high in this category, but this year there was not enough catch data reported for either lake to be included in the rankings. This is interesting to note because both of these lakes are < 1000 acres in size and receive a considerable amount of tournament and non-tournament angling pressure. Lake Cumberland had an exceptional year in 2007, but prior to this it had rarely been ranked in the top 5. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley probably possess the two highest densities of large ($\geq$ 4.0 pound) bass as

a result of the type of system they are and the amount of habitat and forage they contain. Kentucky Lake, alone, produced 382 bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds during 2007, while Lake Barkley produced 353 bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds. A total of 21 waterbodies in Kentucky produced bass in excess of 4 pounds in 2007.

Kincaid Lake averaged the least amount of time (248 angler hours) to catch a bass $\geq$ 6.0 pounds (Table 5). Again, Lake Malone has historically ranked first in this category every year from 2002-2005, but again, because of the lack of reported catch data it is not included this year. Lake Barkley (518 angler hours), Lake Cumberland (709 angler hours), Kentucky Lake (818 angler hours), and Guist Creek Lake (894 angler hours) rounded off the top 5 in this category in 2007. Lake Barkley produced 36 bass $\geq$ 6.0 pounds in 2007, while Kentucky Lake produced 38 bass $\geq$ 6.0 pounds. Additionally, bass anglers should note the amount of time it takes to catch a bass $\geq$ 6.0 pounds because some lakes don't even receive 248 hours of tournament pressure in a calendar year. A total of 12 waterbodies in Kentucky produced bass in excess of 6 pounds in 2007, slightly down from 13 waterbodies in 2006.

Lake Cumberland ranked highest for the average 1st place weight (based on a standardized 8.0 hour tournament) at a bass tournament in 2007 (Table 5). On average, it took 16.48 pounds to capture first place at Lake Cumberland in 2007. Rounding out the top five lakes included Lake Barkley (15.88 pounds), Barren River Lake (15.53 pounds), Kentucky Lake (14.87 pounds), and Green River Lake (12.54 pounds). A total of 10 different water bodies produced an average 1st place weight in excess of 10 pounds during 2007, which was the exact same number of lakes from 2006. This number had been steadily increasing each year since 2003 when only 7 lakes met this standard. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley have consistently produced 1st place weights for 1-day tournaments in excess of 10 pounds for the last 6 years.

KDFWR also follows trends in five of these variables at selected tournament water bodies throughout Kentucky (Table 6). The influence of normal yearly fluctuations will have an impact on these variables and should be taken into account when discussing possible trends.

The majority of Kentucky's water bodies have produced either variable or steady tournament catch rates (number of bass caught per hour) over the last seven years (Table 6). However, a few lakes have shown a general increasing or decreasing trend over this time period. For instance, catch rates of bass at Cave Run Lake have increase substantially since 2000, more than doubling from 0.09 bass per hour to 0.20 bass per hour. This trend coincides with a 13–16 inch slot limit that was implemented in 1996, and it may have resulted in an increase of the catch of fish below 13 inches. This would also help to explain why the average weight of bass caught has decreased from 1.81 pounds in 2000 to 0.68 pounds in 2007. Kentucky Lake has also shown an increasing trend in catch rates by tournament anglers since 2001. Even with this increasing trend, the average weight of bass during a tournament has remained consistent.

Tournament angler success increased at only 37.5% of the water bodies assessed in 2007 (Table 6). A couple of these lakes have shown increasing trends for the past several years including Lake Barkley and Lake Cumberland. It appears that angler success at Green River Lake is making a comeback from its all-time low in 2003 (36.1%) to what is considered to be more representative of the lake in 2007 (56.5%). Both success rates and catch rates of bass by tournament anglers on the Ohio River appear to have dropped a bit in 2007 after an excellent year in 2006.

Changes in the average weight per bass also varied across water bodies throughout Kentucky. Increasing trends are still being observed at Lake Barkley, and Lake Cumberland while Barren River Lake, Rough River Lake, and Guist Creek Lake appear to be leveling off. Decreasing trends have been observed at Cave Run Lake and Paintsville Lake. It is interesting to note that many of the lakes with increasing trends in catch rates and success were also the lakes with decreasing trends in average weight per bass. At these lakes, it appears that anglers may be weighing in a greater numbers of smaller fish.

Catch rates of bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds increased dramatically at Barren River Lake and Lake Cumberland in 2007 (Table 6). At Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, it has taken less time to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds each year for the past three years. Hopefully, this trend will continue for several additional years ahead. Catch of bass $\geq$ 6.0 pounds is rare outside of the bigger reservoirs like Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, and thus it is hard to develop any type of trend at any lake.

If the trends observed in 2007 continue into the 2008 fishing season, anglers should notice increased catch rates and success rates of bass at Barren River and Green River lakes. It also appears that the catch rate at Cave Run Lake is leveling out, even though the average weight per bass is still falling. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley is expected to be just as good as ever, as these lakes seem to be able to consistently produce outstanding catches, as well as numbers of big bass. The excellent tournament results coming out of Lake Cumberland were unexpected, but it's way too early to tell if this is a new trend for this lake. We can always hope that this becomes a regular situation for Lake Cumberland, but only time will tell. For those anglers looking to catch a trophy bass, we again suggest targeting Lake Malone, Lake Beshear, Kentucky Lake, and Lake Barkley during 2008.

Once again, KDFWR thanks all those who participated in the 2007 Tournament Reporting Project. We look forward to your continued involvement. This information is a valuable management tool and will help assist the KDFWR in managing the bass resources in the state of Kentucky. Good luck fishing in 2008 and we hope to see you out on the water!

Table 1. Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2007.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. ≥4.0 lbs caught	No. ≥6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Barren River Lake										
Spring	18	915	1562	0.24	74.7	2.46	233	6	6.85	18.23
Summer	11	369	510	0.19	54.1	2.41	73	1	6.17	14.58
Fall	11	631	935	0.14	53.1	2.02	22	1	6.16	12.06
Total	40	1915	3007	0.20	63.1	2.32	328	8	6.85	15.53
Cave Run Lake										
Spring	1	28	13	0.07	39.3	0.66	0	0	0.86	2.65
Summer	2	72	277	0.26	78.6	0.69	1	0	4.25	3.84
Total	3	100	290	0.20	65.5	0.68	1	0	4.25	3.45
Dale Hollow										
Winter	1	25	6	0.03	20.0	3.36	1	1	7.10	11.60
Fall	2	105	106	0.09	35.0	1.78	3	0	5.40	9.56
Total	3	130	112	0.07	30.0	2.3	4	1	7.10	10.24
Dewey Lake										
Summer	12	527	99	0.05	n/a	2.66	n/a	n/a	5.39	11.67
Fall	1	32	9	0.07	n/a	1.74	n/a	n/a	3.67	11.68
Total	13	559	108	0.05	n/a	2.59	n/a	n/a	5.39	11.67
Green River Lake										
Spring	15	596	904	0.21	59.1	1.70	46	7	6.45	12.83
Summer	8	341	362	0.16	54.4	1.67	9	1	8.06	13.21
Fall	3	187	236	0.14	49.3	1.39	3	1	6.50	9.32
Total	26	1124	1502	0.19	56.5	1.65	58	9	8.06	12.54
Herrington Lake										
Spring	1	21	14	0.10	33.3	1.71	1	0	4.70	6.47
Summer	2	93	96	0.11	58.6	1.85	2	0	4.50	9.91
Total	3	114	110	0.11	50.2	1.80	3	0	4.70	8.76

Table 1 (cont). Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2007.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. ≥4.0 lbs caught	No. ≥6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Kentucky Lake										
Spring	14	970	1769	0.18	58.8	2.63	198	21	7.95	15.17
Summer	12	578	1152	0.2	53.4	2.62	89	9	6.70	16.75
Fall	12	1166	1898	0.12	59.1	2.53	95	8	7.05	12.47
Total	38	2714	4819	0.17	57.1	2.60	382	38	7.95	14.87
Lake Barkley										
Spring	22	1138	1979	0.19	66.7	2.67	243	24	7.85	17.54
Summer	10	433	895	0.23	72.2	2.75	86	11	7.05	16.39
Fall	8	413	586	0.11	51.9	2.29	24	1	6.06	10.23
Total	40	1984	3460	0.19	65.2	2.62	353	36	7.85	15.88
Lake Cumberland										
Spring	7	183	333	0.21	91.1	2.48	43	2	6.83	16.35
Winter	2	65	68	0.15	46.0	3.03	11	1	6.19	16.87
Total	9	248	401	0.20	79.8	2.62	54	3	6.83	16.48
Nolin River Lake										
Spring	11	451	530	0.16	64.9	1.81	45	3	6.39	13.24
Summer	8	255	260	0.10	47.7	1.82	11	1	6.43	9.03
Fall	8	277	403	0.17	62.5	1.43	8	1	6.08	10.10
Winter	2	47	51	0.16	90.4	2.04	5	0	5.54	15.70
Total	29	1030	1244	0.15	61.3	1.73	69	5	6.43	11.38
Paintsville Lake										
Spring	1	35	125	0.25	91.4	0.52	0	0	2.13	4.17
Total	1	35	125	0.25	91.4	0.52	0	0	2.13	4.17
Rough River Lake										
Spring	11	427	522	0.19	64.6	2.10	33	4	7.68	12.78
Summer	6	145	155	0.12	48.6	1.98	8	0	5.19	8.56
Fall	7	231	191	0.11	48.6	1.87	12	2	6.33	12.42
Winter	1	9	11	0.15	88.9	2.25	1	1	6.29	6.29
Total	25	812	879	0.15	57.2	2.02	54	7	7.68	11.40

Table 1 (cont). Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2007.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. ≥4.0 lbs caught	No. ≥6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Taylorsville Lake										
Spring	3	140	48	0.04	22.9	2.47	6	0	4.32	7.13
Fall	3	52	25	0.08	45.7	2.26	2	0	4.15	6.21
Total	6	192	73	0.06	34.3	2.36	8	0	4.32	6.67
Yatesville Lake										
Spring	1	10	3	0.05	20.0	2.38	0	0	3.80	7.87
Summer	2	88	38	0.05	43.2	1.98	1	0	4.50	7.10
Fall	1	16	11	0.04	50.0	1.92	0	0	2.71	3.15
Total	4	114	52	0.05	39.1	2.07	1	0	4.50	6.30

Table 2. Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes <1000 acres by season and overall for 2007.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. ≥4.0 lbs caught	No. ≥6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Bullock Pen Lake										
Spring	3	43	23	0.11	62.5	2.09	0	0	2.6	7.47
Summer	1	13	17	0.16	92.3	1.92	0	0	3.4	8.40
Total	4	56	40	0.12	70	2.05	0	0	3.4	7.70
Carpenter Lake										
Spring & Total	2	42	4	0.01	9.7	0.40	0	0	1.10	1.21
Carr Creek Lake										
Spring	1	24	27	0.13	79.2	2.78	3	0	4.12	16.62
Fall	1	21	6	0.02	19.0	2.49	0	0	3.57	3.45
Total	2	45	33	0.07	49.1	2.64	3	0	4.12	10.04
Elmer Davis Lake										
Spring	2	66	102	0.21	80.9	0.83	1	0	4.94	6.06
Summer	1	36	104	0.20	80.6	0.66	0	0	2.56	3.07
Total	3	102	206	0.21	80.8	0.77	1	0	4.94	5.07
Guist Creek Lake										
Spring	5	148	129	0.12	45.8	2.18	13	2	6.90	14.07
Summer	3	80	112	0.18	48.0	1.43	2	0	5.75	9.1
Total	8	228	241	0.15	46.6	1.90	15	2	6.90	12.21
Kincaid Lake										
Spring	3	64	56	0.10	36.9	2.07	7	4	6.91	9.55
Summer	2	60	88	0.15	51.2	1.79	3	1	6.50	8.30
Total	5	124	144	0.12	42.6	1.96	10	5	6.91	9.05
Lake Carnico										
Spring & Total	1	20	7	0.04	25.0	2.29	1	0	4.18	7.25
Willisburg Lake										
Spring	1	26	4	0.02	15.4	2.55	0	0	3.94	4.50
Summer	1	17	33	0.16	82.4	1.83	0	0	3.81	9.29
Total	2	43	37	0.09	48.9	2.19	0	0	3.94	6.89

Table 3. Summary of bass tournament data from the Ohio River (by pool and total), and lower Kentucky River by season and overall for 2007.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. ≥4.0 lbs caught	No. ≥6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Ohio River										
Cannelton Pool										
Summer	1	184	128	0.09	25.0	1.70	3	0	5.17	9.38
Fall	1	18	19	0.13	61.1	1.26	0	0	2.48	3.08
Total	2	202	147	0.11	43.1	1.48	3	0	5.17	6.23
Markland Pool										
Spring	3	297	244	0.09	44.4	1.34	10	0	5.59	6.88
Fall	1	16	16	0.14	37.5	1.15	0	0	2.00	6.35
Total	4	313	260	0.1	42.7	1.29	10	0	5.59	6.75
McAlpine Pool										
Spring	2	277	471	0.11	40.0	1.59	12	2	6.50	9.31
Summer	1	46	31	0.08	28.3	1.40	0	0	3.36	5.98
Fall	1	176	472	0.13	43.2	1.58	1	0	5.93	8.41
Total	4	499	974	0.11	37.8	1.54	13	2	6.50	8.25
Meldahl Pool										
Spring	1	22	49	0.28	45.5	1.59	0	0	3.51	10.95
Summer	4	488	528	0.14	41.3	1.35	15	1	6.25	8.13
Total	5	510	577	0.17	42.1	1.40	15	1	6.25	8.70
Ohio River Total										
Spring	6	596	764	0.13	43.1	1.46	22	2	6.50	8.37
Summer	6	718	687	0.12	36.4	1.42	18	1	6.25	7.98
Fall	3	210	457	0.14	47.3	1.33	1	0	5.93	5.95
Total	15	1524	1908	0.13	41.2	1.42	35	3	6.50	7.73
Kentucky River - Lower										
Summer	2	38	32	0.12	43.2	1.17	0	0	2.86	6.85
Total	2	38	32	0.12	43.2	1.17	0	0	2.86	6.85

Table 4. Species composition (%) at each tournament site reported in 2007. Size limits used by the tournaments varied and it can affect the composition of the catch.

	Species		
Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass
Barren River Lake	84	5	11
Bullock Pen Lake	100	0	0
Carpenter Lake	100	0	0
Carr Creek Lake	91	6	3
Cave Run Lake	85	0	15
Dale Hollow Lake	46	22	32
Elmer Davis Lake	100	0	0
Green River Lake	82	6	12
Guist Creek Lake	100	0	0
Herrington Lake	64	24	12
Kentucky Lake	88	8	4
Kentucky River - Lower	100	0	0
Kincaid Lake	97	0	3
Lake Barkley	93	4	3
Lake Carnico	100	0	0
Lake Cumberland	39	25	36
Nolin River Lake	89	1	10
Ohio River - Cannelton	93	6	1
Ohio River - Markland	65	31	4
Ohio River - McAlpine	87	7	6
Ohio River - Meldahl	93	2	5
Ohio River - All Pools	86	9	5
Rough River Lake	92	0	8
Taylorsville Lake	100	0	0
Willisburg Lake	100	0	0
Yatesville Lake	90	0	10

Table 5. Rankings of all tournament waters based on the 2007 Bass Tournament Reports. Yearly data from a minimum of three tournaments was needed from each body of water to make the rankings.

Percent successful anglers		Average weight (lbs) per bass		No. bass caught per hour		Hrs. to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 lbs [A]		Hrs. to catch a bass ≥ 6.0 lbs [B]		Average 1st place weight (lb) per 8 hour day	
Elmer Davis Lake	80.8	Lake Barkley	2.62	Elmer Davis Lake	0.21	Lake Cumberland	39	Kincaid Lake	248	Lake Cumberland	16.48
Lake Cumberland	79.8	Lake Cumberland	2.62	Lake Cumberland	0.20	Barren River Lake	53	Lake Barkley	518	Lake Barkley	15.88
Bullock Pen Lake	70.0	Kentucky Lake	2.60	Barren River Lake	0.20	Lake Barkley	53	Lake Cumberland	709	Barren River Lake	15.53
Cave Run Lake	65.5	Dewey Lake	2.59	Cave Run Lake	0.20	Kentucky Lake	81	Kentucky Lake	818	Kentucky Lake	14.87
Lake Barkley	65.2	Taylorsville Lake	2.36	Lake Barkley	0.19	Guist Creek Lake	119	Guist Creek Lake	894	Green River Lake	12.54
Barren River Lake	63.1	Barren River Lake	2.32	Green River Lake	0.19	Kincaid Lake	124	Rough River Lake	969	Guist Creek Lake	12.21
Nolin River Lake	61.3	Dale Hollow	2.30	Kentucky Lake	0.17	Rough River Lake	126	Green River Lake	>1000	Dewey Lake	11.67
Rough River Lake	57.2	Yatesville Lake	2.07	Rough River Lake	0.15	Nolin River Lake	127	Dale Hollow	>1000	Rough River Lake	11.40
Kentucky Lake	57.1	Bullock Pen Lake	2.05	Guist Creek Lake	0.15	Green River Lake	179	Nolin River Lake	>1000	Nolin River Lake	11.38
Green River Lake	56.5	Rough River Lake	2.02	Nolin River Lake	0.15	Taylorsville Lake	195	Barren River Lake	>1000	Dale Hollow	10.24
Herrington Lake	50.2	Kincaid Lake	1.96	Bullock Pen Lake	0.12	Dale Hollow	290	Elmer Davis Lake	n/a	Kincaid Lake	9.05
Guist Creek Lake	46.6	Guist Creek Lake	1.90	Kincaid Lake	0.12	Herrington Lake	339	Bullock Pen Lake	n/a	Herrington Lake	8.76
Kincaid Lake	42.6	Herrington Lake	1.80	Herrington Lake	0.11	Elmer Davis Lake	>1000	Cave Run Lake	n/a	Bullock Pen Lake	7.70
Yatesville Lake	39.1	Nolin River Lake	1.73	Dale Hollow	0.07	Yatesville Lake	>1000	Herrington Lake	n/a	Taylorsville Lake	6.67
Taylorsville Lake	34.3	Green River Lake	1.65	Taylorsville Lake	0.06	Cave Run Lake	>1000	Yatesville Lake	n/a	Yatesville Lake	6.30
Dale Hollow	30.0	Elmer Davis Lake	0.77	Dewey Lake	0.05	Bullock Pen Lake	n/a	Taylorsville Lake	n/a	Elmer Davis Lake	5.07
Dewey Lake	n/a	Cave Run Lake	0.68	Yatesville Lake	0.05	Dewey Lake	n/a	Dewey Lake	n/a	Cave Run Lake	3.45

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

[A] This metric relates to the amount of fishing hours reported to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 lbs. A 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours equals a total of 400 hours of fishing effort (8 x 50 = 400). For example, at Lake Beshear, it takes about 50 hours to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 lbs. This means that an average 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours, should catch 8 bass ≥ 4.0 lbs during each tournament.

[B] This metric relates to the amount of fishing hours reported to catch a bass ≥ 6.0 lbs. A 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours equals a total of 400 hours of fishing effort (8 x 50 = 400).

Table 6. Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Barren River Lake								Beaver Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.15	0.14	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.20	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.06	--	--
Percent successful	45.3	49.3	52.5	61.3	70.4	63.1	55.6	63.1	24.0	19.4	16.2	16.7	10.5	28.4	--	--
Average weight per bass	1.89	1.75	2.25	2.20	1.89	2.09	2.56	2.32	2.29	2.05	2.43	3.00	2.48	2.55	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	333	500	250	167	200	143	184	53	250	333	>1000	167	>1000	200	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	333	--	--

	Cave Run Lake								Dale Hollow Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.13	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.07	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.18	0.10	0.07
Percent successful	59.3	24.2	21.1	27.1	55.8	59.4	71.6	65.5	36.6	30.8	41.8	37.8	26.1	54.7	57.1	30.0
Average weight per bass	1.81	1.99	2.74	2.37	1.28	1.18	0.71	0.68	1.94	1.72	1.78	1.80	2.11	1.57	2.34	2.30
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	n/a	500	250	500	333	333	440	>1000	143	333	500	>1000	125	143	401	290
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	>1000	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Dewey Lake								Grayson Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	--	--	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.05	0.04	0.01	--	--	--	0.11	0.02	--
Percent successful	--	--	41.8	35.9	25.0	39.9	59.5	n/a	23.7	9.9	--	--	--	42.3	12.5	--
Average weight per bass	--	--	2.14	1.76	2.90	1.86	2.86	2.59	3.03	2.89	--	--	--	0.75	2.71	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	--	--	500	500	77	167	38	n/a	167	1000	--	--	--	n/a	128	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	--	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	382	n/a	333	1000	--	--	--	n/a	n/a	--

	Green River Lake								Guist Creek Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.15	0.18	0.11	0.06	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.19	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.15
Percent successful	65.6	73.4	60.9	36.1	49.7	49.0	44.8	56.5	30.8	40.0	45.6	38.2	45.1	51.5	50.1	46.6
Average weight per bass	1.40	1.38	1.56	1.74	2.10	1.51	1.74	1.65	1.74	1.59	2.07	1.58	1.69	1.82	2.33	1.90
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	167	200	333	1000	111	500	184	179	1000	1000	250	>1000	1000	250	229	119
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	1000	>1000	n/a	500	>1000	>1000	>1000	n/a	1000	>1000	n/a	1000	n/a	688	894

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Herrington Lake								Kentucky Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.17
Percent successful	52.3	54.0	40.0	54.4	76.5	58.5	75.8	50.2	63.9	37.8	49.2	65.7	56.0	56.5	63.5	57.1
Average weight per bass	1.38	1.51	1.76	1.44	1.57	1.63	1.30	1.80	2.56	2.56	2.72	2.37	2.72	2.52	2.48	2.60
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	500	333	500	500	n/a	500	n/a	339	167	500	167	200	100	143	127	81
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	795	818

	Kentucky River								Kincaid Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.24	0.09	0.08	0.09	--	0.07	0.14	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12
Percent successful	79.0	54.3	38.2	41.2	--	35.3	73.1	43.2	48.3	32.5	24.4	42.7	41.7	44.7	39.2	42.6
Average weight per bass	1.47	1.56	1.56	1.52	--	1.82	1.38	1.17	1.98	2.24	1.99	1.66	1.66	1.89	1.53	1.96
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	n/a	333	>1000	1000	--	333	259	n/a	100	143	333	250	333	167	231	124
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	1000	1000	1000	n/a	333	n/a	248

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Lake Barkley								Lake Cumberland							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.08	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.19	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.20
Percent successful	43.7	59.9	51.8	51.1	55.0	53.2	55.6	65.2	43.0	23.0	41.1	31.7	45.9	45.0	46.4	79.8
Average weight per bass	2.68	1.69	2.54	2.54	2.27	2.55	2.56	2.62	2.13	2.43	2.10	1.93	2.02	2.21	2.09	2.62
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	143	1000	125	143	125	100	84	53	333	333	125	500	167	125	440	39
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	610	518	n/a	>1000	>1000	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	709

	Lake Malone								Laurel River Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.10	--	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.07	--	--	0.05	0.02	--	0.05	--	--	n/a	--
Percent successful	51.5	--	36.9	39.6	41.9	38.4	--	--	53.0	28.7	--	20.7	--	--	61.1	--
Average weight per bass	2.23	--	2.92	2.58	2.02	3.31	--	--	1.58	1.89	--	1.82	--	--	n/a	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	111	--	91	59	83	43	--	--	500	>1000	--	>1000	--	--	72	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	250	--	250	333	333	333	--	--	n/a	>1000	--	n/a	--	--	n/a	--

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Nolin River Lake								Paintsville Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.16	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.15	--	--	0.11	0.07	0.25	0.28	0.35	--
Percent successful	84.3	63.8	67.5	44.2	66.2	63.9	64.7	61.3	--	--	42.0	32.9	67.0	75.6	63.2	--
Average weight per bass	1.68	1.55	1.84	1.83	2.03	1.96	1.89	1.73	--	--	0.81	1.09	0.77	0.75	0.4	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	1000	>1000	500	1000	500	167	176	127	--	--	1000	500	1000	500	n/a	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	>1000	--	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	n/a	--

	Rough River Lake								Stoner Creek							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.08	0.15	--	0.14	0.21	--	0.26	--
Percent successful	62.8	62.8	69.0	56.8	62.4	56.6	57.5	57.2	46.0	53.6	--	42.9	60.5	--	54.5	--
Average weight per bass	1.67	1.61	1.63	1.95	1.96	1.79	2.03	2.02	1.33	1.12	--	1.41	1.32	--	1.53	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	250	250	500	333	167	143	176	126	n/a	n/a	--	500	n/a	--	88	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	500	1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	>1000	969	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	--	88	--

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Taylorsville Lake								Yatesville Lake							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Percent successful	22.0	23.0	35.2	26.1	30.6	46.4	40.3	34.3	29.7	41.6	28.1	45.2	30.3	40.6	35.7	39.1
Average weight per bass	2.56	2.40	2.26	2.30	2.23	2.32	2.16	2.36	2.59	2.23	2.66	2.67	2.43	2.22	2.24	2.07
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	200	333	333	1000	500	333	932	195	250	167	250	111	143	143	352	>1000
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	n/a	n/a

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont).. Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Cannelton Pool								Greenup Pool							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.14	0.07	0.06	0.17	--	--	0.10	0.11	0.17	0.07	0.07	0.16	--	--	--	--
Percent successful	64.1	34.9	35.2	42.9	--	--	50.0	43.1	63.0	27.9	37.2	64.3	--	--	--	--
Average weight per bass	1.57	1.55	1.42	1.30	--	--	1.37	1.48	1.23	1.49	1.42	1.24	--	--	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	250	n/a	>1000	333	--	--	n/a	539	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	--	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	--	--	--

	Markland Pool								McAlpine Pool							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.16	0.07	0.12	0.18	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.10	0.16	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.11
Percent successful	--	36.7	33.4	46.1	40.0	51.2	70.9	42.7	70.2	65.4	49.2	55.0	48.6	25.0	47.7	37.8
Average weight per bass	1.77	1.67	1.50	1.42	1.36	1.50	1.25	1.29	1.47	1.47	1.43	1.33	1.58	1.58	1.62	1.54
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	--	1000	500	500	1000	1000	n/a	249	1000	n/a	333	1000	1000	n/a	352	446
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2000-2007. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Meldahl Pool								Ohio River - All Pools							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. bass caught per hour	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.17	0.11	0.12	0.14	0.13
Percent successful	57.0	42.6	36.0	49.0	40.8	42.5	43.6	42.1	62.9	51.9	35.0	48.4	40.7	45.8	55.6	41.2
Average weight per bass	1.32	1.41	1.26	1.33	1.36	1.37	1.41	1.40	1.54	1.54	1.42	1.37	1.39	1.44	1.36	1.42
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	333	n/a	n/a	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	289	500	>1000	1000	500	1000	1000	>1000	317
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

SUMMER TOURNAMENT BASS HANDLING GUIDELINES

The following recommended guidelines are taken from the B.A.S.S. sponsored manual, "Keeping Bass Alive". KDFWR Fisheries Division endorses these procedures and recommends that all bass tournament sponsors and anglers adopt these as standard practices in their June – August tournaments when water temperatures are high.

- Stress caused by handling and livewell confinement is the major factor that increases mortality of tournament caught bass. Hot water and low oxygen increase stress.
- Stress can be reduced by **continual** operation of the aerator in a closed livewell. **Do not pump hot lake water into the livewell.**
- Keeping livewell temperature 5-10 degrees F cooler than the lake water greatly reduces stress. Cool water holds more oxygen.
- Two frozen ½ gallon jugs of water or an 8 pound ice block will cool a 30 gallon livewell by 10 degrees F for about 3 hours. To avoid temperature shock, do not cool by more than 10 degrees. Livewell temperature should never be allowed to rise above 85 degrees F. Extra jugs or blocks can be carried in a cooler or insulated boat compartment.
- Livewell temperatures should be checked every hour with ice added or removed as needed.
- Non-iodized salt (available at farm supply stores) helps reduce stress. Add 1/3 cup per 5 gallons of livewell water. Salt can be pre-measured for the size of your livewell and put in small plastic bags.
- If you have more than 10 pounds of bass in your livewell you should exchange ½ the water at the half way through your tournament day. Remember to adjust the temperature and add ½ a dose of salt when you add fresh water.

These simple procedures can significantly increase the survival of tournament caught and released bass and will keep next year's winning sack alive.

Copies of "Keeping Bass Alive" are available to tournament directors and anglers at:

B.A.S.S. Conservation Dept.
(334) 272-9530 ext. 404
Or e-mail: conservation@bassmaster.com

Helpful Tournament Guidelines

- Schedule all tournaments through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's Tournament Scheduling Web Page. Tournaments should be scheduled 30-60 days in advance.
- Avoid scheduling dates, lakes, or ramps where other tournaments are already scheduled. On most reservoirs, multiple ramp sites are available each day.
- Contact the marina or agency controlling the launching ramp when your tournament schedule is confirmed. Confusion and conflict is avoidable with adequate planning and communication. Many ramps have a launch fee.
- Avoid scheduling tournaments on major holiday weekends.
- Respect the rights of other anglers who are using the same ramp at the time of launching and loading.
- Minimize noise and disturbance of nearby campsites and docked boats where folks are staying overnight.
- Make the most effective use of parking space to allow for use by non-tournament anglers. Marina operators may suggest alternate parking arrangements for tournament participants.
- Plan the tournament so participants know where and when to launch and park. This avoids confusion and conflict at ramps. and marinas.
- Shotgun starts are extremely unsafe and should be avoided.
- Large tournaments should stagger launch and weigh-in times to prevent "gridlock" at the ramp. Organizers should use support personnel to direct traffic during launching, parking, weigh-in, and boat retrieval.
- Tournament anglers must possess a valid fishing license, proper boat registration, personal floatation devices, other required equipment, and have knowledge of fishing and boating regulations pertaining to the waters where they are fishing.
- Avoid daytime tournaments during the hot summer months if possible. This will minimize fish mortality.
- Tournament anglers and organizers should handle fish responsibly. Procedures outlined in "Summer Tournament Bass Handling Guidelines", should be followed.

2003 LMBV fact sheet

Robert Montgomery

1. What is Largemouth Bass Virus?

It is one of more than 100 naturally occurring viruses that affect fish but not warm-blooded animals. Origin is unknown, but it is related to a virus found in frogs and other amphibians and nearly identical to a virus isolated in fish imported to the U.S. for the aquarium trade. Although the virus apparently can be carried by other fish species, to date, it has produced disease only in largemouth bass. Scientists do not know how the virus is transmitted or how it is causes disease. In addition, they know of no cure or preventative, as is commonly the case with viruses.

LMBV first gained attention in 1995, when it was implicated in a fish kill on Santee-Cooper Reservoir in South Carolina. Since then, the virus has been found in lakes and impoundments from Texas east to the Chesapeake Bay area, north as far as Vermont, south into Florida.

During 2000, LMBV was implicated as the source of a kill in Lake George on the Indiana-Michigan border. The following year, minor kills were attributable to LMBV in the same general area, with the virus being found in 2 lakes in Michigan, 3 in Indiana, and 2 on the border. Illinois also reported finding the virus in fish from four lakes and in hatchery stock.

During 2002, the virus was reportedly detected in Lake Michigan and at Lake Champlain in Vermont.

Often, LMBV has been found in bass that show no signs of disease, which suggests that some fish might be infected but not ever become ill.

Some kills, however, have been linked to LMBV. Since all those die-offs occurred from June through September, warm-water temperatures might be a factor, particularly in southern fisheries, where surface temperatures can remain in the 90s for months at a time. Research in 2002, in fact, added strength to that belief, as infected fish in tanks died 3.3 times faster at 30 degrees Centigrade (86 degrees Fahrenheit) as they did at 25 C (77 F).

No other common variables seem to exist among lakes where kills occurred. Some lakes, for example, contain aquatic vegetation and others do not, suggesting that herbicide management of aquatic plants did not trigger the disease to turn fatal.

Some scientists believe that "stressed" bass might be the most likely to die of the disease. Along with hot weather, stress factors might include other pathogens, poor water quality caused by pollution and frequent handling by anglers.

Thus far, LMBV-related kills appear to be minor in comparison to kills prompted by other causes, such as pollution. These incidents have received consideration attention, however, because they involve the nation's most popular game fish.

No evidence exists that LMBV has caused a long-term problem on any fishery and it is unclear whether it will have a long-term impact. But scientists are investigating how the virus might affect behavior, reproduction, and growth rates of bass, particularly younger fish.

2. What are the signs of Largemouth Bass Virus?

Most bass infected with LMBV will appear completely normal. In those cases where the virus has triggered disease, however, dying fish may be near the surface and have trouble swimming and remaining upright. That's because LMBV appears to attack the swim bladder, causing bass to lose their balance. Diseased fish might also appear bloated.

3. Is Largemouth Bass Virus a new disease?

No one knows. Because LMBV has been confirmed in so many places at nearly the same time, some scientists suspect the virus has been around for awhile. Others suggest that "genetic sequencing information" indicates that it may be relatively new. Recent evidence suggests that the virus was present during 1991 in Florida's Lake Weir.

4. Where has Largemouth Bass Virus been found?

Since 1995, LMBV has been found in 19 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

From 1998 through 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working through its Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center, tested 9,412 fish at 408 sites throughout the Southeast. LMBV was found at 154 sites, with 773 fish, or 8.2 percent, testing positive.

Fish kills attributed to LMBV have occurred in more than two dozen locations. During 2002, however, the number of kills declined, just as they did in 2001. Minor kills occurred at Lake Bastrop in Texas and Lake Columbia in Arkansas.

5. What are the impacts to bass populations?

Scientists do not know enough yet about the virus to determine if it will have long-lasting effects on bass populations. Indications are, however, that it will not harm fisheries long term. Surveys on lakes following a kill suggest that fish populations remain within the normal range of sampling variability.

6. What are the impacts to fishing?

Following some kills, anglers have reported catching fewer bass, especially bigger fish. But indications are that an infected fishery will recover within a year or two.

7. Are other fish and animals affected by Largemouth Bass Virus?

LMBV is a virus of the type that affects only cold-blooded animals. Researchers have found it in other centrarchids, but, thus far, it has proven to be a fatal disease only for largemouth bass. Other members of the sunfish family found infected with the virus include smallmouth bass, spotted bass, Suwanee bass, bluegill, redbreast sunfish, white crappie, and black crappie.

Amphibians, reptiles, and other fish species could be carriers of LMBV. Scientists have found LMBV to be 98 percent identical to a virus found in guppies and "doctor fish," a freshwater aquarium species imported from southeast Asia. This suggests that LMBV could have originated with importation of an exotic species.

8. Are infected fish safe to handle and eat?

Yes. LMBV is not known to infect any warm-blooded animals, including humans. But common sense should prevail at all times: Thoroughly cook fish that you intend to eat. Also, fish that are dead or dying should not be used for human food, regardless of the cause of the illness.

9. What can and is being done

As with many fish viruses, little is known about LMBV. But because of the popularity of largemouth bass, state and federal agencies, universities, and private interest groups are working hard to learn more about the virus and its impact on the resource. Universities involved with LMBV include Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Auburn, California-Davis, Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Louisiana State, Mississippi, Mississippi State, and Texas A&M, During 2001, the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, also known as Wallop-Breaux, provided more than $400,000 for LMBV research.

Researchers are hopeful that more money will be available in 2003 to help them perfect non-lethal sampling methods and investigate chronic sub-lethal effects on growth, behavior, and reproduction. They also plan to continue examining how anglers generally and tournaments specifically might be stressing bass during hot weather and somehow contributing to the virus' ability to cause disease.

10. What the experts think

With so little known about LMBV, scientists still are making new discoveries. They do suggest, though, that LMBV probably will become an enduring element in ecosystems and a component in natural selection. In other words, it could impose added pressures on bass populations.

11. What anglers can do

Anglers can help minimize the spread of LMBV and its activation into a lethal disease by doing the following:

--- Thoroughly clean and dry livewells, boats, trailers, and other equipment between fishing trips to keep from transporting LMBV--- as well as other undesirable pathogens and organisms--- from one water body to another. A good treatment for livewells is 1/4 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Make sure that contact time with bleach is at least 5 minutes. Research has determined that the virus can live for several hours in water, but that bleaching kills it. Also, scientists recently learned that several strains of LMBV exist, with some more deadly than others, thus confirming even more the importance of these precautions.

--- Do not move fish or fish parts from one body of water to another. And do not release live bait into a fishery.

--- Handle bass as gently a possible if you intend to release them.

--- Stage weigh-in tournaments during cooler weather, so fish caught will not be so stressed. Utilize "paper" tournaments during hot weather, with anglers measuring fish and immediately releasing them.

--- Report dead or dying fish to state wildlife agencies.

--- Volunteer to help agencies collect bass for LMBV monitoring.

--- Educate other anglers about LMBV.